



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 4, 2009
Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:05 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Jo Blacketer, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Daniel Elsener, Steve Gabet, Sarah O'Brien, Vicki Snyder, Neil Pickett, Mike Pettibone, David Shane, and James Edwards were present.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Statement of the Chair

Dr. Bennett said there are great discussions going on around the state regarding teacher licensing reform. One comment often heard is, "Slow down; take your time; we are moving too fast." In response, Dr. Bennett related a story about visiting a school that is receiving technical assistance and talking to a student. She said she knew she did not have a chance to pass an end of course assessment because she had never been taught the material. Dr. Bennett said when we hear, "Slow down, too much, too fast," we have an obligation, to that student and all other students in Indiana, to keep moving forward because our students deserve the best.

Dr. Bennett said whether it is licensing changes, grading schools with A-F letter grades, or other reforms we intend to bring to the state of Indiana, we must put our kids first – in front of all the kids in other states and on par with all the kids throughout the world.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Jeff Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator, reminded the Board of its dissatisfaction with social studies textbooks and its statement earlier in the year about the need for flexibility and to do things differently to help students. Mr. Zaring said some schools have taken that statement to

heart. Today's Spotlight on Learning focuses on one of those corporations – the North Davies School Corporation. Mr. Zaring introduced Dr. Robert Bell, Superintendent; Mr. Todd Whitlock, Technology and Curriculum Coordinator; and Mr. Jed Jerrels, Principal. Dr. Bell and Mr. Jerrels joined the Board electronically for the presentation.

Through the "Living Textbook" initiative, students receive a laptop computer with locally-created content that allows them to do research, complete projects, and meet state standards. Every year, North Daviess Community Schools will evaluate textbooks scheduled for adoption to determine if a new textbook needs to be adopted or if the old textbook can be used as a classroom set, with classroom content driven primarily by online and digital resources that need to be available in a 21st Century classroom.

The living textbook allows students to master content and apply knowledge and information. The costs of "textbooks" will be reduced greatly. The school corporation currently is covering one-half the cost of the equipment from local funds and charging textbook rental on the remaining one-half of the cost.

Mr. Whitlock said students are able to save the web sites they visit and the research they complete. This allows a student without home internet access to have the same opportunities as those with internet access to complete a project and to be successful within the rigorous academic studies of the North Daviess 21st Century High School. When a student graduates, after having been at North Daviess for four years, the student leaves with the laptop and all the content.

Already the corporation has noticed that students are more engaged. In particular, teachers have seen a great change in the engagement of special needs students. The unfortunate side of the living textbooks is that many students wish they had a greater availability to high-speed internet in their community.

Mr. Gabet said a comprehensive content-based curriculum should be foremost in the minds of all teachers to maximize success.

Mr. Pickett said he was very impressed with the Spotlight on Learning items that are presented at each Board meeting and wondered how we can further publicize these accomplishments to other schools, and to learn from others and see what others are doing well.

V. Board Member Comments

Referring back to Dr. Bennett's comment about, "Slow down; you are moving too fast; take your time," Mr. Elsener said State Board members, through discussion and as documented in minutes, have identified issues that are compelling and show the urgency for action. Dr. Bennett should "stay with it."

Mr. Pickett told Dr. Bennett he was elected to do a job and make changes in education, and he should not slow down.

Mr. Elsener said at some point the Board may want to have a one page scorecard at the beginning of every meeting, showing progress on the things that matter the very most to the Board. Board members agreed with this idea.

Dr. Bennett introduced Senator Dennis Kruse, Senate Education Chairman, and thanked him for taking time out of his schedule to come to the State Board meeting. Dr. Bennett also thanked Senator Kruse for the work he has done the past few months to get familiar with the issues that need to be addressed when the General Assembly meets in January 2010.

Mrs. Blacketor said she attended one of the hearings for the teacher licensing changes and applauds what the DOE is doing. She also commented that it was sad to see predominantly senior teachers and colleges of education show up to speak and not see very many young teachers. She also regrets that she did not hear discussions on innovation. She encouraged Dr. Bennett to move forward.

Mrs. Blacketor discussed the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) conference she attended. She said it was a good conference, and there was lots of discussion about U.S. Army education programs and outreach. Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan was there and highlighted innovation as a key factor for education, discussed stimulus dollars, emphasized the need to embrace the common standards as a nation, and mentioned the importance of teacher quality and new licensing standards. Mrs. Blacketor's full report is attached.

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by Beth Outland.

VIII. Discussion

Mr. Zaring reported on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and said the Department has received information about the first set of required reports. The U.S. Department of Education issued guidelines for the innovation grants that go directly to school corporations or groups of school corporations in partnership with not for profit organizations. There is also an opportunity for the private sector to be involved as contractors. Mr. Zaring said our potential role in these grants is to act as a facilitator. One of our higher education institutions is interested in partnering with school corporations. Perhaps others will be as well.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on legislative issues and said an interim study committee on education has finished its work.

Board members discussed issuing a statement on school funding and if so, do we have any philosophical position on whether the funding should follow the student? This likely is a topic for the 2011 budget session. Board members asked to be kept informed as legislative issues come up.

Organization Day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17.

Mr. Zaring discussed strategic planning and the discussion topics scheduled for the December meeting. Discussions have been on going with Education Service Centers regarding their role and, at some point, this will be added to a future discussion agenda.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on assessment and said Board members were given a report from Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, dealing with Algebra I and a response to the public comment that was provided at the October Board meeting.

Mr. Pickett discussed an article he saw in the Wall Street Journal stating that some states have lowered their standards. Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, said this was a study that used a statistical procedure to take states definitions of “proficient” and link those to the NAEP definitions of proficient. Mr. Bruce also said this study was done based on 2005 data and 2007 data and Indiana has not made changes in our cut scores since 2002.

Matt Fleck, Director of College and Career Preparation, discussed the following college and career preparation topics:

- High school graduation requirements.
- Advanced placement.
- Dual Credits.
- Collaborative efforts.

Mr. Fleck gave Board members a copy of Indiana Next 2009-2010: A Guide to Life After High Schools. Mr. Fleck discussed the College and Career Survey of Students, sent out each year in conjunction with Learn More College Connection, that deals in part with college remediation and college graduation rates.

Jon Gubera, Coordinator of Middle School Programs and Advanced Studies, and Dan Scott, Data Analyst, provided an update on PSAT and Advanced Placement (AP).

AP enables high school students to take introductory college-level courses. Students who score well on AP exams are more likely to persist in college and earn a degree. It has been documented that Indiana lags the national average in the number of residents with college degrees. More Indiana high school graduates must enroll and complete college. Students that demonstrate success in AP courses are predicted to outperform their peers that do not take or have not had success in these courses. The Indiana Department of Education has committed to expanding participation and success on AP exams.

The College Board collects individual student level AP performance data throughout each student’s secondary school experience, using a four year tracking system. Using this data, the College Board publishes an annual “AP Report to the Nation.” The most important data presented in the report is the number of graduates that passed an AP exam at some point during their high school career. The report for 2008 showed Indiana ranks 31st in the nation in AP performance, with 10 percent of 2008 Hoosier graduates passing an AP exam during high school. Maryland finished first, with an achievement mark of 23 percent. Mr. Gubera said the goal of the DOE is to have 25 percent of Hoosier graduates pass an AP exam during their high school career.

If Indiana wishes to become one of the top performing AP states in the nation, the following issues must be addressed:

- Continue the significant increase in student participation growth rates on exams for all subgroups.
- Significantly increase individual student pass rates on exams.
- Provide better training for current and new AP teachers.
- Recruit additional quality math and science teachers and provide effective AP training.

- Provide more rigorous math and science classes to students before they enter AP courses.
- Ensure that more students take the PSAT and that all secondary schools utilize AP potential.
- Create incentives for students, teachers, schools and communities to improve AP performance.

Indiana currently pays for all Math and Science AP exams and also pays for all PSAT's taken by tenth graders.

Mr. Gubera said preparation is under way to deliver 17 online AP courses to all Indiana students. The goal is to have a proposal out by January – March 2010. An advisory committee of school principals has been convened to help the DOE figure out what would be the best affective delivery of this model.

Mr. Gubera discussed the National Math and Science Initiative. Indiana is the seventh state selected to participate. Mr. Gubera also discussed a sample statewide score card which measures college success.

Dr. George Frampton, Director of Accreditation, gave an update on accreditation revisions. Dr. Frampton said suggestions have been received from a number of groups, including professional organizations, school principals, and school corporation administrators.

Each of the current accreditation standards that is being retained has been consolidated into the assurance forms that were discussed at the October Board meeting.

The DOE is reforming the accreditation model by streamlining use of the electronic assurance forms, creating a score board, and combining many of the previous standards under the umbrella of new and revised standards. This will require no action in terms of changing rules or regulations.

Dr. Frampton said electronic assurance forms will allow administrators to get immediate feedback and be able to address issues electronically. Positive feedback has been received from building administrators.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on accountability and said the technical assistance team (TAT) visits will be finished this week. Team members will write reports and a report will be presented at the December meeting.

At the informal planning retreat on Tuesday, Board members discussed a draft assigning letter grades to schools. We hope to have an idea of what the categories may look like at the December meeting. Dr. Bennett asked about the accountability system timeline and said he would like to assign letter grades to schools at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

Dr. Bennett said transparency is paramount. Community members must understand how their schools are performing, and school accountability has to provide compelling evidence for improvement.

Mr. Zaring said the survey of cooperative purchasing and shared services will be redesigned by Melissa Ambre, Director of School Finance, as the current survey does not give sufficient information. The redesigned survey will be shared with Board members at a later date.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request to table the approval of common school fund loans for technology and school construction. [Agenda item X, A]
- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a freeway school petition for Holy Cross Lutheran School. [Agenda item X, F]
- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of professional development grants. [Agenda item X, G]

Mr. Shane moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of proposed adult education rule changes.

Mr. Elsener moved for approval. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of LSA Document #09-54, Final Rule Adoption.

Mr. Elsener moved for approval. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Common School Fund loans for Charter School advancements.

Mr. Pickett moved for approval with the exception of Geist Montessori Academy. Mr. Elsener seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of adoption of mathematics textbooks.

It was the consensus of the Board to carry this matter over to the December meeting.

- E. Mr. Zaring presented a request for readoption of rules scheduled to expire January 1, 2010.

Mr. Shane moved for approval. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Mr. Zaring asked that the Board carry over the matter of endorsing a seclusion and restraint policy until the December meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to carry this matter over to the December meeting.

XI. Board Operations

Mr. Shane moved for adjournment. Mr. Elsener seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

NASBE October 2009 Conference

Notes provided by J. Blacketor

Government Affairs:

- 39 Governor's Races next election
- Uncertainty of ESEA (NCLB) revisited – to be considered in January to pass in March
- Kennedy staffers all moved to Higher Education – vacuum of “history” of new staffers
- Review of ARRA funds ([click here for scanned copies](#))
- State boards to sign off on all ARRA applications with student data links
- OMB to provide an overview of ARRA projects early next year
- Teacher Recruitment program forthcoming from USDOE based on thousands of retired teacher anticipations – goal will be to promote alternative pathways

Conference:

- Two Study groups underway: 1) Army/Military Education involvement (funded by U.S. Army) and 2) Time and Technology in the 21st Century (pending Microsoft funding).
- Teacher Quality Session – discussion around need to measure and use “teacher quality” reports to ensure quality and/or expand professional development. Goal to establish nation wide guidelines for teacher quality measurements with expanded licensing options to be considered.
- Army Discussion – Lt. General Benjamin Freakly – shared that the students coming from K-12 are not prepared for the Army academically. 3 out of 10 students are accepted into the Army due to this issue. Forward motion to establish better national Education partnership with the Army so both parties can share “best practices” and work together (study group forthcoming).
- US Secretary Arne Duncan
 - Proud of Common Standards underway – Gates Foundation to host regional conference (St. Louis) for state boards (more info?);
 - New instructional programs strongly encouraged;
 - USDOE moving away from compliance and toward innovation;
 - ARRA – concern about abuse/waste and all need to prove worth/value based on dollars received;
 - National focus on bottom 1% of failing schools (2000 schools) impacting 95,000 children;
 - School districts must be more deliberate about offering choice after tutoring;
 - States should intervene and not expect the Feds to do so with failing schools;
 - January to June is the projected goals for ESEA/NCLB revisions.

Questions for IDOE and board to consider:

1. How do our standards compare to the Common Standards?
2. What is our plan on this front?
3. Do we have any dates for the regional ARRA conferences to be held by the Gates Foundation? Should board members attend?
4. FYI – Hewlett Foundation grant to come up in January through NASBE.